

On a reported new genus of Ptiliidae, *Macdonaldium*
Abd. & Abd., from Canada.

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In the Ent. News 78:77-83, Abdullah & Abdullah (1967) described a new *Ptiliidae* genus, *Macdonaldium*, with a new species, *fungi*, from East Como, Quebec, Canada. The authors observed that no investigation had been made with regard to the family *Ptiliidae* in Canada though a number of genera occur at least in the Lake Superior district. In this connection they referred to *Pteryx*, *Ptenidium*, and *Ptinellodes* and also point to *Actidium* which is known from British Columbia, California, and Texas. In the opinion of the authors, *Macdonaldium* is the first endemic *Ptiliidae* genus from Quebec.

With a view to a proposed revision of the nearctic *Acrotrichis* species, I requested the loan of the type material of *Macdonaldium fungi* for investigation. Professor V. R. Vickery of the Lyman Entomological Museum, where, according to the description, the typical pair is kept, states, however, that no such type specimen was found among the specimens Abdullah left upon leaving for Pakistan.

Even without an investigation of the type specimen, it can be stated, upon the basis of the description and drawings, that *Macdonaldium* is the same genus that Motschulsky (1848) set up under the name *Acrotrichis*. Consequently, *Macdonaldium* Abd. & Abd., 1967, has to be listed as a synonym of *Acrotrichis* Motschulsky, 1848, which is a valid name. In an earlier publication (Sundt, 1958) I have shown that any *Acrotrichis* species, the description of which does not comprise the genital characters, must be considered as *nomina dubia* until available type material is dissected, the genitalia examined, and the species redescribed with regard paid to these organs.

Concerning "*Macdonaldium*" *fungi*, probably belonging to the subgenus *Ctenopteryx* Flach, 1889, one is not able from the description and drawings to undertake a species identification. Even if the type material should turn up later, it would hardly be possible to determine the species on the basis of the fragmentary remnants of which the male type and female allotype seem to consist according to the drawings. *Macdonaldium fungi* Abd. & Abd., 1967, must therefore be considered a *nomen dubium* because of incomplete description and deficient type material.

REFERENCES

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